



# House of Representatives

## File No. 918

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**(Reprint of File No. 580)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6749  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 30, 2015

### **AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORMS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No treasurer of a qualified  
2       candidate committee, as defined in section 9-700 of the general  
3       statutes, shall pay the expenses of compensation in excess of one  
4       thousand dollars, in the aggregate, for any member of the immediate  
5       family, as defined in section 9-601 of the general statutes, or any entity  
6       owned or partially owned by a member of the immediate family of any  
7       candidate participating in the Citizens' Election Program.

8       Sec. 2. Section 9-718 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
9       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

10       (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes and  
11       except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, no [town] party  
12       committee, legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership  
13       committee shall make an organization expenditure for the benefit of a  
14       participating candidate or the candidate committee of a participating  
15       candidate in the Citizens' Election Program for the office of state

16 senator in an amount that exceeds ten thousand dollars for the general  
17 election campaign.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no party  
19 committee, legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership  
20 committee shall make an organization expenditure for the purposes  
21 described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (25) of section 9-601 for  
22 the benefit of a participating candidate or the candidate committee of a  
23 participating candidate in the Citizens' Election Program for the office  
24 of state senator for the primary campaign.

25 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes and  
26 except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, no [town] party  
27 committee, legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership  
28 committee shall make an organization expenditure for the benefit of a  
29 participating candidate or the candidate committee of a participating  
30 candidate in the Citizens' Election Program for the office of state  
31 representative in an amount that exceeds three thousand five hundred  
32 dollars for the general election campaign.

33 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no party  
34 committee, legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership  
35 committee shall make an organization expenditure for the purposes  
36 described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (25) of section 9-601 for  
37 the benefit of a participating candidate or the candidate committee of a  
38 participating candidate in the Citizens' Election Program for the office  
39 of state representative for the primary campaign.

40 (e) For any election for the office of state senator or state  
41 representative held in 2014, and thereafter, the amount of the  
42 limitations on organization expenditures provided in subsections (a)  
43 and (c) of this section shall be adjusted by the State Elections  
44 Enforcement Commission not later than January 15, 2014, and  
45 biennially thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer  
46 price index for all urban consumers as published by the United States  
47 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period

48 beginning on January 1, 2010, and ending on December thirty-first in  
49 the year preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

50 (f) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes and except  
51 as provided in subsection (j) of this section, no state central committee  
52 shall make an organization expenditure for the benefit of a  
53 participating candidate or the candidate committee of a participating  
54 candidate in the Citizens' Election Program for the office of Governor  
55 in an amount that exceeds two hundred fifty thousand dollars for the  
56 general election campaign.

57 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no state  
58 central committee shall make an organization expenditure for the  
59 purposes described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (25) of section  
60 9-601 for the benefit of a participating candidate or the candidate  
61 committee of a participating candidate in the Citizens' Election  
62 Program for the office of Governor for the primary campaign.

63 (h) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes and  
64 except as provided in subsection (j) of this section, no state central  
65 committee shall make an organization expenditure for the benefit of a  
66 participating candidate or the candidate committee of a participating  
67 candidate in the Citizens' Election Program for the office of Lieutenant  
68 Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Comptroller or  
69 Secretary of the State in an amount that exceeds seventy-five thousand  
70 dollars for the general election campaign.

71 (i) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no state  
72 central committee shall make an organization expenditure for the  
73 purposes described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (25) of section  
74 9-601 for the benefit of a participating candidate or the candidate  
75 committee of a participating candidate in the Citizens' Election  
76 Program for the office of Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State  
77 Treasurer, State Comptroller or Secretary of the State for the primary  
78 campaign.

79 (j) For any election for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,

80 Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Comptroller or Secretary of  
81 the State held in 2018, and thereafter, the amount of the limitations on  
82 organization expenditures provided in subsections (f) and (h) of this  
83 section shall be adjusted by the State Elections Enforcement  
84 Commission not later than January 15, 2018, and quadrennially  
85 thereafter, in accordance with any change in the consumer price index  
86 for all urban consumers as published by the United States Department  
87 of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, during the period beginning on  
88 January 1, 2016, and ending on December thirty-first in the year  
89 preceding the year in which said adjustment is to be made.

90 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 9-612 of the general statutes is  
91 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
92 *passage*):

93 (a) No individual shall make a contribution or contributions in any  
94 one calendar year in excess of [ten] five thousand dollars to the state  
95 central committee of any party, or for the benefit of such committee  
96 pursuant to its authorization or request; or two thousand dollars to a  
97 town committee of any political party, or for the benefit of such  
98 committee pursuant to its authorization or request; or two thousand  
99 dollars to a legislative caucus committee or legislative leadership  
100 committee, or one thousand dollars to any other political committee  
101 other than (1) a political committee formed solely to aid or promote the  
102 success or defeat of a referendum question, (2) an exploratory  
103 committee, (3) a political committee established by an organization, or  
104 for the benefit of such committee pursuant to its authorization or  
105 request, or (4) a political committee formed by a slate of candidates in  
106 a primary for the office of justice of the peace of the same town.

107 Sec. 4. Section 9-705 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
108 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

109 (a) (1) The qualified candidate committee of a major party candidate  
110 for the office of Governor who has a primary for nomination to said  
111 office shall be eligible to receive a grant from the Citizens' Election

112 Fund for the primary campaign in the amount of [one million two  
113 hundred fifty thousand] one million fifteen thousand six hundred  
114 eighty-eighty dollars, provided, in the case of a primary held in [2014]  
115 2018, or thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under subsection (d)  
116 of this section.

117 (2) The qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the office of  
118 Governor who has been nominated, or who has qualified to appear on  
119 the election ballot in accordance with the provisions of subpart C of  
120 part III of chapter 153, shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund  
121 for the general election campaign in the amount of [six million] four  
122 million eight hundred seventy-five thousand three hundred dollars,  
123 provided in the case of an election held in [2014] 2018, or thereafter,  
124 said amount shall be adjusted under subsection (d) of this section.

125 (b) (1) The qualified candidate committee of a major party candidate  
126 for the office of Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State  
127 Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer who has a  
128 primary for nomination to said office shall be eligible to receive a grant  
129 from the fund for the primary campaign in the amount of [three  
130 hundred seventy-five thousand] three hundred four thousand seven  
131 hundred six dollars, provided, in the case of a primary held in [2014]  
132 2018, or thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under subsection (d)  
133 of this section.

134 (2) The qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the office of  
135 Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State  
136 Treasurer who has been nominated, or who has qualified to appear on  
137 the election ballot in accordance with the provisions of subpart C of  
138 part III of chapter 153, shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund  
139 for the general election campaign in the amount of [seven hundred  
140 fifty thousand] six hundred nine thousand four hundred twelve  
141 dollars, provided in the case of an election held in [2014] 2018, or  
142 thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under subsection (d) of this  
143 section.

144 (c) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of  
145 this section, the qualified candidate committee of an eligible minor  
146 party candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
147 Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State  
148 Treasurer shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the  
149 general election campaign if the candidate of the same minor party for  
150 the same office at the last preceding regular election received at least  
151 ten per cent of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates for  
152 said office at said election. The amount of the grant shall be one-third  
153 of the amount of the general election campaign grant under subsection  
154 (a) or (b) of this section for a candidate for the same office, provided  
155 (A) if the candidate of the same minor party for the same office at the  
156 last preceding regular election received at least fifteen per cent of the  
157 whole number of votes cast for all candidates for said office at said  
158 election, the amount of the grant shall be two-thirds of the amount of  
159 the general election campaign grant under subsection (a) or (b) of this  
160 section for a candidate for the same office, (B) if the candidate of the  
161 same minor party for the same office at the last preceding regular  
162 election received at least twenty per cent of the whole number of votes  
163 cast for all candidates for said office at said election, the amount of the  
164 grant shall be the same as the amount of the general election campaign  
165 grant under subsection (a) or (b) of this section for a candidate for the  
166 same office, and (C) in the case of an election held in [2014] 2018, or  
167 thereafter, said amounts shall be adjusted under subsection (d) of this  
168 section.

169 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this  
170 section, the qualified candidate committee of an eligible petitioning  
171 party candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
172 Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State  
173 Treasurer shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the  
174 general election campaign if said candidate's nominating petition has  
175 been signed by a number of qualified electors equal to at least ten per  
176 cent of the whole number of votes cast for the same office at the last  
177 preceding regular election. The amount of the grant shall be one-third

178 of the amount of the general election campaign grant under subsection  
179 (a) or (b) of this section for a candidate for the same office, provided  
180 (A) if said candidate's nominating petition has been signed by a  
181 number of qualified electors equal to at least fifteen per cent of the  
182 whole number of votes cast for the same office at the last preceding  
183 regular election, the amount of the grant shall be two-thirds of the  
184 amount of the general election campaign grant under subsection (a) or  
185 (b) of this section for a candidate for the same office, (B) if said  
186 candidate's nominating petition has been signed by a number of  
187 qualified electors equal to at least twenty per cent of the whole number  
188 of votes cast for the same office at the last preceding regular election,  
189 the amount of the grant shall be the same as the amount of the general  
190 election campaign grant under subsection (a) or (b) of this section for a  
191 candidate for the same office, and (C) in the case of an election held in  
192 [2014] 2018, or thereafter, said amounts shall be adjusted under  
193 subsection (d) of this section.

194 (3) In addition to the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
195 subsection, the qualified candidate committee of an eligible petitioning  
196 party candidate and the qualified candidate committee of an eligible  
197 minor party candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,  
198 Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State  
199 Treasurer shall be eligible to receive a supplemental grant from the  
200 fund after the general election if the treasurer of such candidate  
201 committee reports a deficit in the first statement filed after the general  
202 election, pursuant to section 9-608, and such candidate received a  
203 greater percentage of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates  
204 for said office at said election than the percentage of votes utilized by  
205 such candidate to obtain a general election campaign grant described  
206 in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection. The amount of such  
207 supplemental grant shall be calculated as follows:

208 (A) In the case of any such candidate who receives more than ten  
209 per cent, but not more than fifteen per cent, of the whole number of  
210 votes cast for all candidates for said office at said election, the grant  
211 shall be the product of (i) a fraction in which the numerator is the

212 difference between the percentage of such whole number of votes  
213 received by such candidate and ten per cent and the denominator is  
214 ten, and (ii) two-thirds of the amount of the general election campaign  
215 grant under subsection (a) or (b) of this section for a major party  
216 candidate for the same office.

217 (B) In the case of any such candidate who receives more than fifteen  
218 per cent, but less than twenty per cent, of the whole number of votes  
219 cast for all candidates for said office at said election, the grant shall be  
220 the product of (i) a fraction in which the numerator is the difference  
221 between the percentage of such whole number of votes received by  
222 such candidate and fifteen per cent and the denominator is five, and  
223 (ii) one-third of the amount of the general election campaign grant  
224 under subsection (a) or (b) of this section for a major party candidate  
225 for the same office.

226 (C) The sum of the general election campaign grant received by any  
227 such candidate and a supplemental grant under this subdivision shall  
228 not exceed one hundred per cent of the amount of the general election  
229 campaign grant under subsection (a) or (b) of this section for a major  
230 party candidate for the same office.

231 (d) For elections held in [2014] 2018, and thereafter, the amount of  
232 the grants in subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section shall be adjusted  
233 by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later than January  
234 15, [2014] 2018, and quadrennially thereafter, in accordance with any  
235 change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as  
236 published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor  
237 Statistics, during the period beginning on January 1, [2010] 2014, and  
238 ending on December thirty-first in the year preceding the year in  
239 which said adjustment is to be made.

240 (e) (1) The qualified candidate committee of a major party candidate  
241 for the office of state senator who has a primary for nomination to said  
242 office shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the primary  
243 campaign in the amount of [thirty-five thousand] twenty-nine



244 thousand two hundred forty-three dollars, provided (A) if the  
245 percentage of the electors in the district served by said office who are  
246 enrolled in said major party exceeds the percentage of the electors in  
247 said district who are enrolled in another major party by at least twenty  
248 percentage points, the amount of said grant shall be [seventy-five  
249 thousand] sixty-two thousand six hundred sixty-three dollars, and (B)  
250 in the case of a primary held in [2010] 2016, or thereafter, said amounts  
251 shall be adjusted under subsection (h) of this section. For the purposes  
252 of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the number of enrolled  
253 members of a major party and the number of electors in a district shall  
254 be determined by the latest enrollment and voter registration records  
255 in the office of the Secretary of the State submitted in accordance with  
256 the provisions of section 9-65. The names of electors on the inactive  
257 registry list compiled under section 9-35 shall not be counted for such  
258 purposes.

259 (2) The qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the office of  
260 state senator who has been nominated, or has qualified to appear on  
261 the election ballot in accordance with subpart C of part III of chapter  
262 153, shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the general  
263 election campaign in the amount of [eighty-five thousand] seventy-one  
264 thousand seventeen dollars, provided in the case of an election held in  
265 [2010] 2016, or thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under  
266 subsection (h) of this section.

267 (3) (A) In the case of an adjourned primary pursuant to section 9-  
268 446, a qualified candidate committee of a major party candidate for the  
269 office of state senator who appears on the ballot for such adjourned  
270 primary shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the  
271 adjourned primary in an amount of [fifteen thousand] eleven thousand  
272 two hundred fifty dollars, provided in the case of a primary held in  
273 2016, or thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under subsection (h)  
274 of this section.

275 (B) In the case of an adjourned election pursuant to section 9-332, a  
276 qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the office of state

277 senator who has been nominated, or has qualified to appear on the  
278 election ballot in accordance with subpart C of part III of chapter 153,  
279 and who appears on the ballot for such adjourned election shall be  
280 eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the general election  
281 campaign in the amount of [fifteen thousand] eleven thousand two  
282 hundred fifty dollars, provided in the case of an election held in 2016,  
283 or thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under subsection (h) of  
284 this section.

285 (f) (1) The qualified candidate committee of a major party candidate  
286 for the office of state representative who has a primary for nomination  
287 to said office shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the  
288 primary campaign in the amount of [ten thousand] eight thousand  
289 three hundred fifty-five dollars, provided (A) if the percentage of the  
290 electors in the district served by said office who are enrolled in said  
291 major party exceeds the percentage of the electors in said district who  
292 are enrolled in another major party by at least twenty percentage  
293 points, the amount of said grant shall be [twenty-five thousand]  
294 twenty thousand eight hundred eighty-eight dollars, and (B) in the  
295 case of a primary held in [2010] 2016, or thereafter, said amounts shall  
296 be adjusted under subsection (h) of this section. For the purposes of  
297 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the number of enrolled members  
298 of a major party and the number of electors in a district shall be  
299 determined by the latest enrollment and voter registration records in  
300 the office of the Secretary of the State submitted in accordance with the  
301 provisions of section 9-65. The names of electors on the inactive  
302 registry list compiled under section 9-35 shall not be counted for such  
303 purposes.

304 (2) The qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the office of  
305 state representative who has been nominated, or has qualified to  
306 appear on the election ballot in accordance with subpart C of part III of  
307 chapter 153, shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the  
308 general election campaign in the amount of [twenty-five thousand]  
309 twenty thousand eight hundred eighty-eight dollars, provided in the  
310 case of an election held in [2010] 2016, or thereafter, said amount shall

311 be adjusted under subsection (h) of this section.

312 (3) (A) In the case of an adjourned primary pursuant to section 9-  
313 446, a qualified candidate committee of a major party candidate for the  
314 office of state representative who appears on the ballot for such  
315 adjourned primary shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund for  
316 the adjourned primary in an amount of [five thousand] three thousand  
317 seven hundred fifty dollars, provided in the case of a primary held in  
318 2016, or thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under subsection (h)  
319 of this section.

320 (B) In the case of an adjourned election pursuant to section 9-332, a  
321 qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the office of state  
322 representative who has been nominated, or has qualified to appear on  
323 the election ballot in accordance with subpart C of part III of chapter  
324 153, and who appears on the ballot for such adjourned election shall be  
325 eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the general election  
326 campaign in the amount of [five thousand] three thousand seven  
327 hundred fifty dollars, provided in the case of an election held in 2016,  
328 or thereafter, said amount shall be adjusted under subsection (h) of  
329 this section.

330 (g) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (e) and (f) of  
331 this section, the qualified candidate committee of an eligible minor  
332 party candidate for the office of state senator or state representative  
333 shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the general  
334 election campaign if the candidate of the same minor party for the  
335 same office at the last preceding regular election received at least ten  
336 per cent of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates for said  
337 office at said election. The amount of the grant shall be one-third of the  
338 amount of the general election campaign grant under subsection (e) or  
339 (f) of this section for a candidate for the same office, provided (A) if the  
340 candidate of the same minor party for the same office at the last  
341 preceding regular election received at least fifteen per cent of the  
342 whole number of votes cast for all candidates for said office at said  
343 election, the amount of the grant shall be two-thirds of the amount of

344 the general election campaign grant under subsection (e) or (f) of this  
345 section for a candidate for the same office, (B) if the candidate of the  
346 same minor party for the same office at the last preceding regular  
347 election received at least twenty per cent of the whole number of votes  
348 cast for all candidates for said office at said election, the amount of the  
349 grant shall be the same as the amount of the general election campaign  
350 grant under subsection (e) or (f) of this section for a candidate for the  
351 same office, and (C) in the case of an election held in [2010] 2016, or  
352 thereafter, said amounts shall be adjusted under subsection (h) of this  
353 section.

354 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (e) and (f) of this  
355 section, the qualified candidate committee of an eligible petitioning  
356 party candidate for the office of state senator or state representative  
357 shall be eligible to receive a grant from the fund for the general  
358 election campaign if said candidate's nominating petition has been  
359 signed by a number of qualified electors equal to at least ten per cent of  
360 the whole number of votes cast for the same office at the last preceding  
361 regular election. The amount of the grant shall be one-third of the  
362 amount of the general election campaign grant under subsection (e) or  
363 (f) of this section for a candidate for the same office, provided (A) if  
364 said candidate's nominating petition has been signed by a number of  
365 qualified electors equal to at least fifteen per cent of the whole number  
366 of votes cast for the same office at the last preceding regular election,  
367 the amount of the grant shall be two-thirds of the amount of the  
368 general election campaign grant under subsection (e) or (f) of this  
369 section for a candidate for the same office, (B) if said candidate's  
370 nominating petition has been signed by a number of qualified electors  
371 equal to at least twenty per cent of the whole number of votes cast for  
372 the same office at the last preceding regular election, the amount of the  
373 grant shall be the same as the amount of the general election campaign  
374 grant under subsection (e) or (f) of this section for a candidate for the  
375 same office, and (C) in the case of an election held in [2010] 2016, or  
376 thereafter, said amounts shall be adjusted under subsection (h) of this  
377 section.

378 (3) In addition to the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
379 subsection, the qualified candidate committee of an eligible petitioning  
380 party candidate and the qualified candidate committee of an eligible  
381 minor party candidate for the office of state senator or state  
382 representative shall be eligible to receive a supplemental grant from  
383 the fund after the general election if the treasurer of such candidate  
384 committee reports a deficit in the first statement filed after the general  
385 election, pursuant to section 9-608, and such candidate received a  
386 greater percentage of the whole number of votes cast for all candidates  
387 for said office at said election than the percentage of votes utilized by  
388 such candidate to obtain a general election campaign grant described  
389 in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection. The amount of such  
390 supplemental grant shall be calculated as follows:

391 (A) In the case of any such candidate who receives more than ten  
392 per cent, but less than fifteen per cent, of the whole number of votes  
393 cast for all candidates for said office at said election, the grant shall be  
394 the product of (i) a fraction in which the numerator is the difference  
395 between the percentage of such whole number of votes received by  
396 such candidate and ten per cent and the denominator is ten, and (ii)  
397 two-thirds of the amount of the general election campaign grant under  
398 subsection (e) or (f) of this section for a major party candidate for the  
399 same office.

400 (B) In the case of any such candidate who receives more than fifteen  
401 per cent, but less than twenty per cent, of the whole number of votes  
402 cast for all candidates for said office at said election, the grant shall be  
403 the product of (i) a fraction in which the numerator is the difference  
404 between the percentage of such whole number of votes received by  
405 such candidate and fifteen per cent and the denominator is five, and  
406 (ii) one-third of the amount of the general election campaign grant  
407 under subsection (e) or (f) of this section for a major party candidate  
408 for the same office.

409 (C) The sum of the general election campaign grant received by any  
410 such candidate and a supplemental grant under this subdivision shall

411 not exceed one hundred per cent of the amount of the general election  
412 campaign grant under subsection (e) or (f) of this section for a major  
413 party candidate for the same office.

414 (h) For elections held in [2010] 2016, and thereafter, the amount of  
415 the grants in subsections (e), (f) and (g) of this section shall be adjusted  
416 by the State Elections Enforcement Commission not later than January  
417 15, [2010] 2016, and biennially thereafter, in accordance with any  
418 change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers as  
419 published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor  
420 Statistics, during the period beginning on January 1, [2008] 2014, and  
421 ending on December thirty-first in the year preceding the year in  
422 which said adjustment is to be made.

423 (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (e), (f) and (g) of  
424 this section, in the case of a special election for the office of state  
425 senator or state representative, the amount of the grant for a general  
426 election campaign shall be seventy-five per cent of the amount  
427 authorized under the applicable said subsection (e), (f) or (g).

428 (j) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (i), inclusive,  
429 of this section:

430 (1) The initial grant that a qualified candidate committee for a  
431 candidate is eligible to receive under subsections (a) to (i), inclusive, of  
432 this section shall be reduced by the amount of any personal funds that  
433 the candidate provides for the candidate's campaign for nomination or  
434 election pursuant to subsection (c) of section 9-710;

435 (2) If a participating candidate is nominated at a primary and does  
436 not expend the entire grant for the primary campaign authorized  
437 under subsection (a), (b), (e) or (f) of this section, the amount of the  
438 grant for the general election campaign shall be reduced by the total  
439 amount of any such unexpended primary campaign grant and  
440 moneys;

441 (3) If a participating candidate who is nominated for election does

442 not have any opponent in the general election campaign, [the amount  
443 of the general election campaign grant for which the qualified  
444 candidate committee for said candidate shall be eligible shall be thirty  
445 per cent of the applicable amount set forth in subsections (a) to (i),  
446 inclusive, of this section] the qualified candidate committee for said  
447 candidate shall be ineligible to receive a grant from the Citizens'  
448 Election Fund. For purposes of this subdivision, a participating  
449 candidate shall be deemed to have an opponent if (A) a major party  
450 has properly endorsed any other candidate and made the requisite  
451 filing with the Secretary of the State within the time specified in section  
452 9-391 or 9-400, as applicable, (B) any candidate of any other major  
453 party has received not less than fifteen per cent of the vote of  
454 convention delegates and has complied with the filing requirements  
455 set forth in section 9-400, or (C) any candidate of any other major party  
456 has circulated a petition and obtained the required number of  
457 signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination and has either  
458 qualified for the primary or been deemed the party's nominee;

459 (4) If the only opponent or opponents of a participating candidate  
460 who is nominated for election to an office are eligible minor party  
461 candidates or eligible petitioning party candidates and no such eligible  
462 minor party candidate's or eligible petitioning party candidate's  
463 candidate committee has received a total amount of contributions of  
464 any type that is equal to or greater than the amount of the qualifying  
465 contributions that a candidate for such office is required to receive  
466 under section 9-704 to be eligible for grants from the Citizens' Election  
467 Fund, the amount of the general election campaign grant for such  
468 participating candidate shall be sixty per cent of the applicable amount  
469 set forth in this section; and

470 (5) The amount of the primary grant or general election campaign  
471 grant for a qualified candidate committee shall be reduced, pursuant to  
472 the provisions of this subdivision, if such candidate committee has  
473 control and custody over lawn signs from any prior election or  
474 primary in the following applicable amount: (A) Five hundred or more  
475 lawn signs for the qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the

476 office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State  
477 Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer, (B) one hundred  
478 or more lawn signs for the qualified candidate committee of a  
479 candidate for the office of state senator, or (C) fifty or more lawn signs  
480 for the qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the office of  
481 state representative. If such qualified candidate committee has custody  
482 and control over lawn signs in the applicable amount, as described in  
483 this subdivision, the grant from the fund for the primary campaign or  
484 general election campaign, as applicable, for such qualified candidate  
485 committee shall be reduced as follows: (i) Two thousand five hundred  
486 dollars for the qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the  
487 office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State  
488 Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer, (ii) five hundred  
489 dollars for the qualified candidate committee of a candidate for the  
490 office of state senator, or (iii) two hundred fifty dollars for the qualified  
491 candidate committee of a candidate for the office of state  
492 representative. In no event shall such a reduction be made both to a  
493 qualified candidate committee's primary campaign grant and to such  
494 candidate committee's general election grant. No reduction in either  
495 the primary campaign or general election campaign for a qualified  
496 candidate committee's grant shall be taken for any lawn sign that is not  
497 in the custody or control of the qualified candidate committee.  
498 Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to apply to any item  
499 other than lawn signs.

500 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) No treasurer of a federal  
501 account, as defined in section 9-601 of the general statutes, shall make  
502 any contribution or expenditure from such federal account to, or for  
503 the benefit of, any candidate seeking any elective office subject to the  
504 provisions of chapters 155 to 157, inclusive, of the general statutes or  
505 the candidate committee of any such candidate.

506 (b) Any candidate participating in and having received a grant  
507 under the Citizens' Election Program, pursuant to chapter 157 of the  
508 general statutes, or the candidate committee of any such candidate that  
509 receives, or is benefited by, any contribution or expenditure described



510 in subsection (a) of this section shall, upon a finding by the State  
511 Elections Enforcement Commission of a violation under subparagraph  
512 (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the general  
513 statutes, as amended by this act, be liable for repayment of the full  
514 amount of such grant to the Citizens' Election Fund.

515 Sec. 6. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-7b of the general  
516 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
517 (*Effective from passage*):

518 (2) To levy a civil penalty not to exceed (A) two thousand dollars  
519 per offense against any person the commission finds to be in violation  
520 of any provision of chapter 145, part V of chapter 146, part I of chapter  
521 147, chapter 148, section 7-9, section 9-12, subsection (a) of section 9-17,  
522 section 9-19b, 9-19e, 9-19g to 9-19k, inclusive, 9-20, 9-21, 9-23a, 9-23g, 9-  
523 23h, 9-23j to 9-23o, inclusive, 9-23r, 9-26, 9-31a, 9-32, 9-35, 9-35b, 9-35c,  
524 9-40a, 9-42, 9-43, 9-50a, 9-56, 9-59, 9-168d, 9-170, 9-171, 9-172, 9-232i to  
525 9-232o, inclusive, 9-404a to 9-404c, inclusive, 9-409, 9-410, 9-412, 9-436,  
526 9-436a, 9-453e to 9-453h, inclusive, 9-453k or 9-453o, (B) two thousand  
527 dollars per offense against any town clerk, registrar of voters, an  
528 appointee or designee of a town clerk or registrar of voters, or any  
529 other election or primary official whom the commission finds to have  
530 failed to discharge a duty imposed by any provision of chapter 146 or  
531 147, (C) two thousand dollars per offense against any person the  
532 commission finds to have (i) improperly voted in any election, primary  
533 or referendum, and (ii) not been legally qualified to vote in such  
534 election, primary or referendum, [or] (D) except as provided in  
535 subparagraph (E) of this subdivision, two thousand dollars per offense  
536 or twice the amount of any improper payment or contribution,  
537 whichever is greater, against any person the commission finds to be in  
538 violation of any provision of chapter 155 or 157, or (E) two thousand  
539 dollars per offense or three times the amount of any improper  
540 contribution or expenditure from a federal account, whichever is  
541 greater, against the treasurer of such federal account who the  
542 commission finds to be in violation of section 5 of this act. The  
543 commission may levy a civil penalty against any person under

544 subparagraph (A), (B), (C), [or] (D) or (E) of this subdivision only after  
 545 giving the person an opportunity to be heard at a hearing conducted in  
 546 accordance with sections 4-176e to 4-184, inclusive. In the case of  
 547 failure to pay any such penalty levied pursuant to this subsection  
 548 within thirty days of written notice sent by certified or registered mail  
 549 to such person, the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford,  
 550 on application of the commission, may issue an order requiring such  
 551 person to pay the penalty imposed and such court costs, state  
 552 marshal's fees and attorney's fees incurred by the commission as the  
 553 court may determine. Any civil penalties paid, collected or recovered  
 554 under subparagraph (D) of this subdivision for a violation of any  
 555 provision of chapter 155 applying to the office of the Treasurer shall be  
 556 deposited on a pro rata basis in any trust funds, as defined in section 3-  
 557 13c, affected by such violation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-718
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-612(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	9-705
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	9-7b(a)(2)

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

---

### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>	<b>FY 17 \$</b>
Governmental Accountability, Off.	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Resources of the Citizen's Election Fund	CEF - Savings	None	Approximately \$2.8 million

Note: GF=General Fund; CEF=Citizen's Election Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

The bill reduces candidate grants from the Citizen's Election Fund by 25% and also eliminates grants to unopposed candidates. Such grant reductions will result in a savings of approximately \$2.8 million in FY 17 (for the 2016 election cycle) and approximately \$8.5 million in FY 19 (for the 2018 election cycle).

The bill also increases certain fines. Doing so is anticipated to result in a revenue gain to the Office of Governmental Accountability; the level of which will be dependent upon the number of offenses committed.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and associated fiscal impact resulting in the fiscal impact identified above.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6749 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF PUBLIC FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes changes to the Citizens' Election Program (CEP), the state's voluntary public financing system, and in other campaign finance laws. Generally, it:

1. prohibits the treasurers of candidates who participate in the CEP (participating candidates) from compensating any other participating candidate's immediate family member, or entity such a family member owns or partially owns, more than \$1,000 in the aggregate;
2. imposes restrictions on certain state central committee organization expenditures;
3. decreases, from \$10,000 to \$5,000, the limit on contributions from individuals to state central committees during a calendar year (§ 3);
4. reduces primary and general election grant amounts to major party participating candidates;
5. eliminates general election grants for unopposed participating candidates;
6. prohibits the treasurer of a federal account from making any contribution or expenditure from the account to, or for the benefit of, any candidate or candidate committee; and

7. allows the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to impose a fine for an improper expenditure from a federal account.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which increased, from three to five, the maximum number of municipalities that could participate in the state's municipal public campaign financing pilot program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§ 1 — PAYMENTS TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF CEP CANDIDATES**

Existing law prohibits candidate committee treasurers from compensating the candidate's immediate family members (CGS § 9-607(g)(2)(L)). The bill additionally prohibits participating candidate committee treasurers from compensating any CEP candidate's immediate family member, or entity such a family member owns or partially owns, more than \$1,000 in the aggregate. The bill does not specify the time frame during which the prohibition applies.

### **§ 2 — ORGANIZATION EXPENDITURES**

By law, organization expenditures are made by legislative caucus, legislative leadership, or party committees (i.e., state central and town committees) for the benefit of candidates or their committees (CGS § 9-601(25)). They are not considered campaign contributions, but the law places restrictions and limits on those made to benefit legislative candidates participating in the CEP.

The bill (1) imposes additional limits on those made to benefit participating legislative candidates and (2) establishes limits and restrictions on those made to benefit participating statewide office candidates (i.e., governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of the state, treasurer, and comptroller).

### ***Legislative Candidates***

The bill imposes limits on state central committee organization expenditures made to benefit the general election campaigns of

legislative candidates participating in the CEP. The limits are the same as those the law imposes on town, legislative caucus, and legislative leadership committee organization expenditures made for the same purposes.

Thus, under the bill, \$10,000 is the maximum amount a state central committee can spend on organization expenditures made to benefit the general election campaign of a CEP candidate for state senator. For a CEP candidate for state representative, \$3,500 is the maximum amount. Under existing law, SEEC must adjust these limits by January 15 in every even-numbered year in accordance with any change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The adjustment covers any change in the CPI-U from January 1, 2010 until December 31 in the year before the adjustment.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, prohibits legislative caucus, legislative leadership, or party committees from making organization expenditures for party candidate listings made to benefit the primary campaigns of legislative candidates participating in the CEP.

### ***Statewide Office Candidates***

The bill imposes restrictions on state central committee organization expenditures made to benefit statewide office CEP candidates. Specifically, it prohibits state central committees from making organization expenditures for party candidate listings made to benefit the primary campaigns of statewide office candidates participating in the CEP.

The bill also establishes \$250,000 as the maximum amount a state central committee can spend on organization expenditures made to benefit the general election campaign of a CEP candidate for governor. For a CEP candidate for another statewide office, \$75,000 is the maximum. (Because candidates for governor and lieutenant governor campaign together in a general election campaign, it is unclear whether the \$75,000 limit for lieutenant governor candidates is

separate from the limit for gubernatorial candidates.)

By January 15, 2018 and every four years thereafter, the bill requires SEEC to adjust these limits in accordance with any change in the CPI-U from January 1, 2016 until December 31 of the year before the adjustment.

#### § 4 — CEP GRANTS

The bill makes changes to grant amounts under the CEP. It (1) eliminates general election grants for unopposed participating candidates, (2) reduces the primary and general election grants for participating major party candidates, and (3) resets the starting date for inflation adjustments.

By law, SEEC adjusts the grants for inflation every four years for statewide office candidates and every two years for legislative candidates based on changes in the CPI-U. Currently, the commission uses 2010 and 2008, respectively, as starting dates for the basis of those calculations. In both cases, the bill resets the starting date for inflationary adjustments to 2014.

Tables 1 through 4 show the grant amounts for each office under current law and the bill.

Table 1: CEP Grants for Gubernatorial Candidates <sup>a</sup>

<i>Grant</i>	<i>Current Law</i>	<i>The Bill</i>
Primary Grant for Nomination	\$1,250,000	\$1,015,688
General Election Grant, Opposed Candidate <sup>b</sup>	6,000,000	4,875,300
General Election Grant, Unopposed Candidate	1,800,000 <sup>c</sup>	0 <sup>d</sup>
General Election Grant, Nominated Candidate Opposed by Minor or Petitioning Party Candidates <sup>e</sup>	3,600,000	2,925,180

<sup>a</sup> To be adjusted for inflation.

<sup>b</sup> Applies to a nominated major party candidate who is opposed by another major party candidate or by a minor or petitioning party candidate who has received the required qualifying contributions.

- <sup>c</sup> Under current law, a candidate who faces no opposition receives a general election grant equal to 30% of the applicable full grant.
- <sup>d</sup> The bill eliminates general election grants for unopposed candidates.
- <sup>e</sup> Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, a candidate may receive a grant equal to 60% of the applicable full grant when he or she is opposed only by a minor or petitioning party candidate who has received contributions less than the qualifying amount.

Table 2: CEP Grants for Other Statewide Office Candidates <sup>a</sup>

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Current Law</b>	<b>The Bill</b>
<b>Primary Grant for Nomination</b>	\$375,000	\$304,706
<b>General Election Grant, Opposed Candidate <sup>b</sup></b>	750,000	609,412
<b>General Election Grant, Unopposed Candidate</b>	225,000 <sup>c</sup>	0 <sup>d</sup>
<b>General Election Grant, Nominated Candidate Opposed by Minor or Petitioning Party Candidates <sup>e</sup></b>	450,000	365,647

- <sup>a</sup> To be adjusted for inflation.
- <sup>b</sup> Applies to a nominated major party candidate who is opposed by another major party candidate or by a minor or petitioning party candidate who has received the required qualifying contributions.
- <sup>c</sup> Under current law, a candidate who faces no opposition receives a general election grant equal to 30% of the applicable full grant.
- <sup>d</sup> The bill eliminates general election grants for unopposed candidates.
- <sup>e</sup> Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, a candidate may receive a grant equal to 60% of the applicable full grant when he or she is opposed only by a minor or petitioning party candidate who has received contributions less than the qualifying amount.

Table 3: CEP Grants for State Senate Candidates <sup>a</sup>

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Current Law</b>	<b>The Bill</b>
<b>Primary Grant for Nomination</b>	\$35,000	\$29,243
<b>Primary Grant for Nomination in a Party-Dominant District <sup>b</sup></b>	75,000	62,663
<b>General Election Grant, Opposed Candidate <sup>c</sup></b>	85,000	71,017
<b>General Election Grant, Unopposed Candidate</b>	25,500 <sup>d</sup>	0 <sup>e</sup>
<b>General Election Grant, Nominated Candidate Opposed by Minor or Petitioning Party Candidates <sup>f</sup></b>	51,000	42,610
<b>Adjourned Primary or General Election</b>	15,000	11,250

- <sup>a</sup> To be adjusted for inflation.



- <sup>b</sup> Applies to a major party candidate whose party has at least 20% more enrolled voters in his or her district than another major party, as determined by the latest enrollment and voter registration records in the Office of the Secretary of the State. Electors on the inactive registry list do not count toward the total.
- <sup>c</sup> Applies to a nominated major party candidate who is opposed by another major party candidate or by a minor or petitioning party candidate who has received the required qualifying contributions.
- <sup>d</sup> Under current law, a candidate who faces no opposition receives a general election grant equal to 30% of the applicable full grant.
- <sup>e</sup> The bill eliminates general election grants for unopposed candidates.
- <sup>f</sup> Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, a candidate may receive a grant equal to 60% of the applicable full grant when he or she is opposed only by a minor or petitioning party candidate who has received contributions less than the qualifying amount.

**Table 4: CEP Grants for State Representative Candidates <sup>a</sup>**

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Current Law</b>	<b>The Bill</b>
<b>Primary Grant for Nomination</b>	\$10,000	\$8,355
<b>Primary Grant for Nomination in a Party-Dominant District <sup>b</sup></b>	25,000	20,888
<b>General Election Grant, Opposed Candidate <sup>c</sup></b>	25,000	20,888
<b>General Election Grant, Unopposed Candidate</b>	7,500 <sup>d</sup>	0 <sup>e</sup>
<b>General Election Grant, Nominated Candidate Opposed by Minor or Petitioning Party Candidates <sup>f</sup></b>	15,000	12,533
<b>Adjourned Primary or General Election</b>	5,000	3,750

<sup>a</sup> To be adjusted for inflation.

<sup>b</sup> Applies to a major party candidate whose party has at least 20% more enrolled voters in his or her district than another major party, as determined by the latest enrollment and voter registration records in the Office of the Secretary of the State. Electors on the inactive registry list do not count toward the total.

<sup>c</sup> Applies to a nominated major party candidate who is opposed by another major party candidate or by a minor or petitioning party candidate who has received the required qualifying contributions.

<sup>d</sup> Under current law, a candidate who faces no opposition receives a general election grant equal to 30% of the applicable full grant.

<sup>e</sup> The bill eliminates general election grants for unopposed candidates.

<sup>f</sup> Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, a candidate may receive a grant equal to 60% of the applicable full grant when he or she is opposed only by a minor or petitioning party candidate who has received contributions less than the qualifying amount.

## **§§ 5 & 6 — CONTRIBUTIONS OR EXPENDITURES FROM FEDERAL ACCOUNTS**

The bill prohibits the treasurer of a federal account from making any contribution or expenditure from the account to, or for the benefit of, any candidate or candidate committee. It allows SEEC to impose a fine of \$2,000 per offense or three times the amount of any improper expenditure from a federal account, whichever is greater, against the

account's treasurer. Additionally, if a participating CEP candidate (or his or her committee) receives such a contribution or benefits from such an expenditure, he or she is liable for repaying the full amount of his or her CEP grant. A federal account is a depository account that is subject to the disclosure and contribution limits of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 9      Nay 6      (03/25/2015)